

Park Board Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013

Board Present: Jan Whitcomb, Kathleen Hoyle, Jim Novaria, Karista Gallick, Jim Bennink, Tucker Webb, Sarah Perry

Board Members Excused: Sue Williams, Doug Barrett

Staff Present: Bill Deming

Meeting was called to order by Jim N. at 6:30 at Stuart Manor

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Kathleen made the motion to approve the minutes; Jim N. seconded the motion; all others unanimous.

New Business

A. Friends Group Report

- Tucker will be taking over website
- Sue is looking for/contacting volunteers who have signed up
- Events Calendar – filled except for vine reduction (Environment Board has been contacted about this)
- Garlic Mustard – Sarah in contact with Ruth of Environmental Board, will set date in Spring
- March of Dimes Walk will be at the same time as Recycled Art Project, but should be done before the event; we can set up separate from the March of Dimes

B. Recycled Art

- Have put in for Kalamazoo Foundation Grant; they like the idea and thought it was unique; we should be hearing back from them in the next few weeks, however, their contributions cannot be used for prizes
- If we can get more money in to the event, we can do monetary prizes and advertise as such, thereby generating more interest
- Republic Waste and Shupan & Sons have been contacted about contributions, both will be deciding soon
- Consumers is interested in the event and will contribute at least \$1,000
- Bank of America is still pending
- Bower's manufacturing has also been contacted
- Adams Outdoor will be a media sponsor
- Spartan Stores – have been contacted
- Three architects have also been contacted
- Want to get vendor booths at event
- Prizes: if don't get monetary contributions, will reduce proposed prizes; the board discussed prizes but have not yet finalized; the prizes will depend on sponsors and what they provide
- Kathleen asked WMU art school if they could make trophies – still waiting to hear back
- Possibility of giving bottle cap pins with the event logo to first 100 people who come to event; T-Shirts and posters also possibilities
- Still need to get volunteer positions for the event filled
- Vicksburg, Portage Northern and Portage Central high schools all received entry packet before Christmas (it was sent to art teachers at these schools)

- KIA and Kalamazoo Arts Council have all been contacted
- For event, need contact for artists to answer their questions, concerns, etc.
- Kathleen distributed tentative budget, can be adjusted as needed after seeing what companies are willing to donate
- Jim B. had idea of looking into “rat rods” (old cars made from recycled parts); possibly could have them on display for event
- Discussed outcomes: when applying for grants, foundations want to know numbers: who event is for, who will be affected, how many people, etc.
 - goal is to get 10 sculptures
 - want 8 vendors to meet outcomes
 - Estimate about 500 people/families will gain better understanding of environment and recycling from event (board will need to take attendance at event)
- Jim N. will email galleries and get word out about event to artists
- Website has “Click here for entries” link as well as press release about event; discussed possibly involving MLive or Kalamazoo Gazette

C. Winter Blast Half Marathon

- Bill reminded board of the date of the event – February 17; the half marathon will start at 8:15 a.m. and the 5K will start at 8:00 a.m.
- Parks will be handling course coordination
- Bill said to let him know if anyone wanted to help out with event
- 500 people will be running half marathon

Summary Activity

- Bill said ice rink has been popular, lots of people attending, especially over winter break
- Schrier Park offering cross country ski lessons (however, do not have skis for rental; either need own skis or Lee’s Adventure Sports may do rentals) and Timber Ridge offers downhill ski and snowboarding lessons

Comments from Board Members

- Tucker: will type proposal for new event idea of haunted forest based on the “Slender Man” video
- Jim B.: said had person in mind to replace Jason; wanted to know process for getting new board member; Bill said if people are interested, they must go through the City Clerk’s office and fill out a form, and City Council must approve them; the next board member selection will be in May
- Jan: met with Girl Scout CEO and she was interested in our activities; the Girl Scouts send out publications; Jan encouraged them to coordinate with the City of Portage and will send them an entry form for the recycled art event
- Jim B: said he is proud to promote Portage’s parks

Adjournment: Kathleen made motion for adjournment at 7:30 p.m., Jim N. seconded, all other unanimous

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 6, 2013 – 6:30 p.m., Stuart Manor

Respectfully submitted, Karista Gallick, Secretary, Park Board